

Remarks:

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicant's claim for priority and certified priority document under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 - 9 and 11 - 25 are presently pending in the application. Claims 7 and 13 have been amended. Claim 10 has been canceled. New claims 19 - 22 have been added.

Applicant notes that the Office Action fails to provide any kind of rejection for claims 14 and 15. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the next Office Action clarify the status of claims 14 and 15, and that, if the those claims are rejected, that the next Office Action **not** be made final, pursuant to MPEP §706.07(a), as such rejections would not have been necessitated by Applicant's amendments or by an IDS.

In item 4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 7 - 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 54-068942 (the "JAPANESE" reference).

In item 6 of the Office Action, claims 16 - 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over the

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JAPANESE in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,379,957 to Calvino
("CALVINO").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

More particularly, Applicant has amended claim 7 to recite all
of the limitations of former claim 10, now canceled.

Applicant's former claim 10 was rejected as allegedly
anticipated by the **JAPANESE** reference. Applicant respectfully
disagrees.

Applicant's amended claim 7 recites, among other limitations:

a circuit breaker interrupter unit;

a first insulating housing surrounding said
interrupter unit, connected through said first
coupling housing to said first flange and having an
interior;

a switch disconnecter;

a second insulating housing surrounding said switch
disconnecter, connected through said second coupling
housing to said second flange and having an interior;

said first insulating housing together with said
interrupter unit and said first coupling housing,
being interchangeable with said second insulating
housing together with said switch disconnecter and
said second coupling housing; [emphasis added by
Applicant]

As such, Applicant's claim 7 requires, among other things,
that the first assembly (i.e., the first insulating housing,

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interrupter and first coupling housing) be interchangeable with the second assembly (i.e., the second insulating housing, switch disconnecter and second coupling housing). Some of the advantages of this interchangeability are discussed in the specification of the instant application, for example, on page 8 of the instant application, lines 24 - 31, which state:

As can be seen in the case of the compressed-gas-insulated switching device illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, the insulating housings 12, 13, 14 (which are each arranged in the form of rays with respect to one another) together with the coupling housings 8, 9, 10 and the fittings and attachments can thus be interchanged with one another. This results in a flexible compressed-gas-insulated switching device which can be matched very easily to the requirements of the installation location. [emphasis added by Applicant]

See also, for example, page 3 of the instant application, lines 28. As such, Applicant's amended claim 7 requires the device to have the ability to interchange the first assembly and the second assembly. The invention of Applicant's claim 7 provides for a modular configuration, since the coupling housings including the circuit breaker interrupter unit arranged thereon or the switch disconnecter can be interchanged without intrusion into the inside of the grounded encapsulating housing. This feature of Applicant's claim 7 is neither taught, nor suggested, by the cited prior art.

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More particularly, Fig 3 of the **JAPANESE** reference, cited in the Office Action against Applicant's former claim 10, now claim 7, shows tub-shaped electrical conductors arranged within a grounded encapsulating housing and standing nearly upright, and including drive bars 14, 24, longitudinally displaceable within the tube-shaped electrical conductors. The drive bars 14, 24 of the **JAPANESE** reference appear to be coupled to a movable contact piece, so that the drive bars 4, 14 can be driven into and out of the electrical conductor, in order to form switching centers. However, due to the position and configuration of the drive device shown in Fig. 3 of the **JAPANESE** reference, an interchange of the two insulating housings of the **JAPANESE** reference (i.e., a simple change in their positions), including their switching centers arranged therein, is not possible. Rather, in order to be able to interchange the portions of the **JAPANESE** reference, as required by claim 7, further changes to the drive device in the lower area of the configuration of Fig. 3 must additionally be made. As best as Applicant can tell from the figures, such additional changes are neither taught, nor suggested, by the **JAPANESE** reference.

For the foregoing reasons, among others, Applicant's claim 7 is believed to be patentable over the **JAPANESE** reference. The **CALVINO** reference, cited in the Office Action in combination

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with the **JAPANESE** reference against certain of Applicant's dependent claims, does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of the **JAPANESE** reference.

As such, Applicant's claim 7 is believed to be patentable over the **JAPANESE** reference and **CALVINO**, whether taken alone, or in combination.

Additionally, Applicant's new claim 19 includes certain limitations of Applicant's former claims 1 and 12. As such, Applicant's new claim 19 recites, among other limitations:

a drive shaft associated with a drive device and passing through a wall of said first coupling housing;
[emphasis added by Applicant]

As such, Applicant's claim 19 requires, among other things, a **drive shaft that passes through a wall of the first coupling housing.** This configuration is described in the specification of the instant application, for example, on page 6 of the instant application, lines 22 - 34, which state:

For this purpose, the interrupter unit 15 is equipped with a movable contact piece, which is not illustrated in any more detail in the figure but which can be moved via a first drive device 18. **The first drive device 18 is attached to the outside of the first coupling housing 8. A shaft 19 passes through one wall of the first coupling housing 8 in a gastight manner.** Any rotary movement is transmitted via the shaft 19 from outside the first coupling housing 8 into the interior of the first coupling housing 8. A rocker 20 is arranged on the shaft 19 in the interior of the

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first coupling housing 8. A connecting rod, which is attached to the rocker 20, converts a rotary movement of the shaft 19 to a linear movement. [emphasis added by Applicant]

Certain of Applicant's dependent claims additionally recite a second shaft passing through the second coupling housing.

Page 4 of the Office Action alleges that the shafts 14 and 24 of the **JAPANESE** reference pass through a wall of each of the elements 3a, 3b of Fig. 3 of the **JAPANESE** reference, analogized in the Office Action to Applicant's first and second coupling housings. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

More particularly, Fig. 3 of the **JAPANESE** reference discloses first and second coupling housings which are surrounded by the apparently toroidal constructions 3a, 3b of the **JAPANESE** reference. In all probability, the enclosing constructions 3a, 3b are measuring transformers. As shown in Fig. 3 of the **JAPANESE** reference, the shafts 14 and 24 of the **JAPANESE** reference do not pass through a wall of either the toroidal constructions 3a, 3b, or through the housings they surround. Rather, the drive shafts are disposed within open lumens of both the housing and the constructions 3a, 3b, but do not pass through any wall thereof.

In contrast to the **JAPANESE** reference, Applicant's independent claim 19, as well as dependent claims 11, 12 and 13, require,

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among other limitations, that the wall of at least one of the first and second coupling housings be passed through by a drive shaft (19 of Applicant's figure). This permits the grounded encapsulating housing (2 of Applicant's figure) to be kept free of movable parts. Thus, in Applicant's invention of claim 19, the grounded encapsulating housing need not be specifically insulated in order to guide swivable shafts, for example, into the inside. The phase conductor arranged in the inside of the grounded encapsulating housing is a kind of junction point, which, in accordance with the invention, can be kept free from any interference characteristics.

For the foregoing reasons, among others, Applicant's independent claim 19 and dependent claims 8, 9, 13 are also believed to be patentable over the **JAPANESE** reference. The **CALVINO** reference, cited in the Office Action in combination with the **JAPANESE** reference against certain of Applicant's dependent claims, does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of the **JAPANESE** reference.

Additionally, Applicant's dependent claims 8, 9, 13, 20, 21, and 24 recite, among other limitations, a movable contact piece, wherein a drive device is coupled to at least one of the claimed first and second coupling housings for moving the movable contact piece. The **JAPANESE** reference and **CALVINO**

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also fail to teach or suggest this particularly claimed coupling of the drive device to the coupling housing for moving a movable contact piece. More particularly, the **JAPANESE** reference does not have any suggestion of coupling a drive device to the coupling housings, since the coupling housings of the **JAPANESE** reference are surrounded by enclosing constructions 3a, 3b and such a coupling to the coupling housings does not appear possible.

For the foregoing reasons, among others, Applicant's claims are believed to be patentable over the **JAPANESE** reference, whether taken alone, or in combination with **CALVINO**.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 7 and 19. Claims 7 and 19 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 7 or 19.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 7 - 9 and 11 - 25 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a

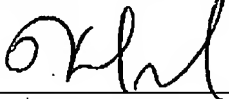
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telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can
be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition
for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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